

## MINUTES

### SHENANGO VALLEY AREA TRANSPORTATION STUDY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION COORDINATING COMMITTEE

HYBRID MEETING

MCRPC- 2491 Highland Road, Hermitage, PA 16148- Conference Room

**Tuesday, June 10, 2025 – 10:30 AM**

#### **PRESENT**

Jeremy Coxe, Chair  
Ann Coleman, Commissioner  
Doniele Russell, Executive Director  
Peter Messina, Planner  
Brandon Leach, Transportation Planning Manager  
Julia Cornell, Planning Specialist Supervisor  
Buddy Miller  
Brian McNulty, District Executive  
Thomas McClelland, Assistant District Executive  
Courtney Lyle, District Manager  
Mark Nicholson, Design Engineer  
Sara Tassone, Transportation Planning Manager  
Ronnique Bishop, Transportation Planning Specialist  
Jill Boozer, Executive Director  
Michael Nashtock, Assistant Director  
Robert Lark, Supervisor  
Ken Robertson, Mayor  
Paul Hamill, Mayor  
Jasson Urey, Town Manager  
Cindy Black, Secretary/Treasurer  
Brenda Heck, Secretary/Treasurer  
Jason Tomko, Finance Director  
Edward Reese, Director  
Andy Wapple, Director  
Jennifer Novak  
Stephen Theiss, Public/Resident  
Benjamin Jones, Public/Resident  
Ross Vernon, Public/Resident

#### **REPRESENTING**

City of Hermitage  
Mercer County  
MCRPC  
MCRPC  
PennDOT  
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FHWA  
MCRCOG/SVSS  
MCRCOG/SVSS  
Borough of West Middlesex  
Borough of Sharpsville  
Town of Greenville  
Town of Greenville  
Wilmington Township  
Liberty Township  
City of Sharon  
GPD Group  
AECOM  
Rep. Parke Wentling Office  
Guest  
Guest  
Guest

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1. **Mr. Jeremy Coxe, Chair**, called the meeting to order at 10:30 AM. **A quorum was present.**
2. **Approval of Minutes of the March 11, 2025, Coordinating Committee Meeting.**
  - A. There were no comments on the March 11, 2025, meeting minutes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by **Commissioner Ann Coleman** and seconded by **Mr. Paul Hamill**. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **2023-2026 TIP and 2025-2028 TIP Modifications/Administration Actions, and FY 2025 STIP Amendment - Ms. Julia Cornell, Transportation Planning Specialist, PennDOT, Center for Program Development and Management (CPDM):**  
*Information on these items is available on the MCRPC Website (mcrpc.com) on the "Transportation" webpage.*
  - A. **2025-2028 TIP Modifications/Administrative Actions:** Ms. Julia Cornell stated that she only covered informational items concerning amendments that were completed by PennDOT Central Office at the state level. **Therefore, no action or vote was needed.**
    - a. Information Item #1 was an amendment to add PROTECT funds to the SR 2014 Market Street Project in Mercer Borough. This project includes resurfacing and stormwater improvements on State Route 58 and State Route 2014 (Market Street) in the Borough of Mercer.
    - b. Information item #2 was an amendment to add \$602,000 from the TIFIA line item to the Construction Phase of the SR 518/3025 intersection project in Sharpsville Borough.
4. **Approval of Consultant's Contract to Undertake the 2026 Long Range Transportation Update.**
  - A. Mr. Peter Messina explained that the SVATS MPO solicited consultants to undertake the 2026 Long Range Transportation Plan. SVATS MPO received two responses to its RFP, from WRA and AECOM. After interviews were completed by the steering committee, SVATS MPO staff recommended that the contract be awarded to AECOM.
    - a. Mr. Andy Waple spoke on behalf of AECOM and stated that his firm will conduct all data collection/analysis and lead project list development, agency coordination, and public outreach for the 2026 LRTP.
  - B. A motion was made by **Mr. Robert Lark** and seconded by **Mr. Michael Nashtock** to award AECOM the 2026 LRTP Contract. The motion passed unanimously.
5. **Amendment to 2025-2027 Unified Planning Work Program.**

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- A. Mr. Peter Messina explained that the cost for AECOM's contract is \$157,948. He stated that the MPO should take a vote on an amendment to the 2025-2027 UPWP to revise text to allow funding of the LRTP across different line items.
- B. A motion to approve an amendment to the 2025-2027 UPWP was made by **Commissioner Ann Coleman** and seconded by **Mr. Robert Lark**. The motion passed unanimously.

### **6. Ratification of the PA WalkWorks Program**

- A. Mr. Peter Messina explained that the PA WalkWorks Program under the PA Downton Center and the PA Department of Health provides funding for planning grants. He stated that in May, an E-Ballot was conducted to approve submission of an application to the WalkWorks Pre-Planning Capacity Program, which provides technical assistance to develop the scope of work for a second application to WalkWorks next year. The Capacity Building Program also provides a small \$3,000 supplement. A motion was needed to ratify the E-Ballot. The E-Ballot passed with 11 "yes" votes and 0 "No" votes.
- B. A motion to ratify the E-Ballot for the WalkWorks Program was made by **Mr. Paul Hamill** and seconded by **Mr. Michael Nashtock**. The motion passed unanimously.

### **7. Service Avenue Bridge Project Options to Fund Utility Costs**

- A. Mr. Peter Messina stated that he, Ms. Courtney Lyle, Mr. Jason Tomko of the City of Sharon, and Mr. Brad Elder of Mercer County met in the morning before the Coordinating Committee meeting to discuss options to fund a shortfall of utility costs for the Service Ave Bridge project in the City of Sharon. It was agreed to draw funds from the Bridge Line Item of the 2025-2028 TIP to cover the extra utility costs.
- B. Ms. Courtney Lyle stated the Service Avenue Bridge project was initially awarded through STU funds, which Mercer County no longer receives. As the project was undergoing design, it was discovered that there is a utility line that needs to be replaced at the cost of approximately \$250,000 to \$350,000. These funds will come out of the bridge line item of the 2025-2028 TIP. Ms. Courtney Lyle stated that no vote was required for this action.

### **8. Project Updates Summary**

- A. STU and TA Projects (SVATS MPO Staff):** Mr. Peter Messina gave updates for three STU projects.
  - a. SR 18/SR 58 (College Avenue Project) – Town of Greenville
    - i. The road work on SR 18: SR 58-College Avenue began March 15, 2025, and will last through May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026. This project includes flexible base replacement, overlays with Superpave

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Asphalt Mixtures, drainage, traffic signals, ADA curb ramps, signing, delineators, and pavement markings. The operations will span approximately from the intersection of Main St. (SR 18) and College Ave (SR 18) to the intersection of Conneaut Lake Rd. (SR 18) and Mill Hill Rd as well as from the intersection of Clarksville St. (SR 18) and Orangeville St. to the intersection of Main St (SR 18) and S Mercer St. (SR 58). All efforts shall be made to minimize disturbance to traffic flow, but occasional lane closures can be expected Monday through Friday between 7 AM-5 PM and Saturdays as needed. Small detours will occur occasionally throughout the year. All work will be performed per PennDOT's traffic restriction requirements.

b. State Street Pedestrian Project – City of Sharon

- i. Improvements will be made on East State Street from North Sharpsville Avenue to North Oakland Avenue, as well as a small portion of Pine Street. The proposed pedestrian improvements will include replacement of the existing curb and sidewalk, updating the curb ramps to be ADA compliant, and planting of appropriate trees and landscaping. The project also includes the installation of additional drainage infrastructure on both sides of the roadway to control flooding during rain events.
- ii. The lowest bid for the State Street Pedestrian Project came in over budget at \$944,000, while the engineer's estimate was \$832,000. PennDOT was able to provide additional funds from the TASA line item to cover the remaining cost of the project. The City has awarded the contract to M & B Services for an exact amount of \$993,842.71. Construction of the project began near the end of April and it is expected that physical construction work will be completed on October 27, 2025. The project completion date is June 5, 2026, to ensure the preservation of new vegetation.

c. McKinley Avenue Bridge Project – Mercer Borough

- i. This project replaces the bridge that carries McKinley Avenue over Munnell Run. The proposed new bridge is a steel superstructure with a reinforced concrete deck on concrete abutments. Work will also include a new concrete sidewalk on the west side of the roadway to facilitate pedestrian traffic, in particular access for the employees and visitors to Imperial Systems from the parking lot on the south side of Munnell Run. The existing I-beam is classified as in poor condition, and the bridge is limited to one lane of traffic. Approximately 300 vehicles a day use the bridge on average. The bridge is owned by Mercer Borough.
  - ii. Mr. Brian McNulty stated that environmental findings have caused delays for this project and require the involvement of DEP. PennDOT is waiting on lab results that should be completed within the next two weeks.
- d. Mr. Peter Messina asked if there were any questions on these or other projects. Mr. Robert Lark asked for the status of the Bridges on SR 718 (Dock Street) in Sharon and on SR 18 in West Middlesex. Mr. Brian McNulty stated that Dock St will let this fall and start construction next year. He then stated that PennDOT will look further into the SR 18 bridge.

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### **B. Major Projects/Other TIP Projects (Mark Nicholson, PennDOT D-I)**

- i. Mr. Mark Nicholson stated that PennDOT's Newsletter covering TIP Project Updates was distributed along with the meeting materials and asked if there were any questions from the newsletter. There were no questions.

### **C. PennDOT Construction Project Status 2025 (Tom McClelland, PennDOT D-I):**

- ii. Mr. Tom McClelland stated that all current projects are carryover projects that were discussed during the last Coordinating Committee meeting in March. He stated that the largest project in Mercer County is the three-phase project on I-80 that is currently under construction in its first phase from miles 0 to 5. He stated that work is currently being done on building the crossovers and patching.
- iii. Mr. Tom McClelland asked if there were any questions about other projects in Mercer County. Mr. Paul Hamill asked if there was an update on the Ohl State Bridge Project in Greenville. Mr. Mark Nicholson stated that PennDOT is trying to schedule a meeting to discuss the project. Commissioner Ann Coleman stated the Commissioners would like to be included in the meeting and will be visiting the Ohl Street Bridge this week.

## **9. Transportation Funding Updates**

### **a. PennDOT**

- i. Ms. Courtney Lyle stated the meeting was held between PennDOT, PennDOT District 1-0, and SVATS MPO to discuss the start of the 2027-2030 TIP. She stated that a draft project list for the next TIP will be presented at the September MPO meeting with preliminary approval of the list happening at the December MPO meeting. The final TIP will be approved in June 2026. She stated that she and Ms. Sara Tassone are the proper contacts to address any questions regarding the TIP to PennDOT.

### **b. FHWA and FTA**

- i. Ms. Ronnique Bishop of FHWA stated that she has resumed her position as the planning contact for SVATS MPO. Mr. Brandon Leach asked if the information regarding FHWA planning contacts could be distributed and Ms. Ronnique Bishop confirmed that PennDOT may release staffing updates.

## **10. Additional Discussion**

- i. Ms. Julia Cornell stated that the 2025 public comment period for the State Twelve-Year Plan (TYP) has been completed. Survey data will be provided to MPO over the next few weeks. A link to a recording of the Public Forum, held on April 10, 2025, will be distributed to MPO.
- ii. Ms. Julia Cornell then stated that applications for the TASA program will open on July 14th and

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close on October 31st.

### **11. Adjournment**

- A. A motion was called for by Mr. Coxé to adjourn the meeting. The motion to adjourn was made by **Mr. Robert Lark** and seconded by **Mr. Paul Hamill**. The motion passed unanimously at 11:08 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doniele Russell,  
SVATS MPO Secretary